

The two months spent on tour stand out as the best of the year. I cannot tell you just how many villages we visited, but I could tell much that would cheer the hearts of all interested in this work, did space permit. In a village of wealth by dyers we were kindly received last February. In October we returned, and the women and children literally thronged us. They wore an abundance of beautiful jewelry, but they listened with the closest attention. On our previous visit, one widow followed us from place to place, and this time she would not allow us to go home without coming to her house. As soon as we were seated, she asked us to sing, "I am so glad that Jesus loves me." She had remembered the hymn since our first visit, and we hope that she has experienced it also. Twice during the year we visited the Rajah villages, and we saw much to encourage us. We found believers in three new villages. At least eight, whom we had never seen before, told us that one of the believing widows had told them the story of Christ, and that they believe He is their Saviour too. After returning to Bobbili, I sent them a Bible, New Testament and other reading matter. Perhaps I should add that a number of these women read well—an unusual thing.

Recently we have been hearing of one here and one there who are believing; in each of two villages about twenty-five are said to be deeply interested. And so the year has closed bearing a bright prospect

MAUD R. E. HARRISON.

In the course of a recent interview, Mrs. Bishop, the author of the interesting "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan," expressed somewhat pessimistic views in regard to the results of missionary work in that country and in China, and attributed the slow progress not only to the general indifference to all religion, and the fact that most of the Eastern students who come to England return imbued with the theories of Huxley, Darwin, and Herbert Spencer, but also to the far more painful fact that "neither the manners nor mode of living of European lay residents commend Christianity to the natives of any country."

Mrs. Bishop, however, paid a high tribute to the Christian missionary, and furnished some striking food for thought in her statement that: Whilst we have baptized only five million heathen during the present century, two hundred millions has been the increase of the heathen world. Thirty-five millions of these heathen pass annually in one ghastly, reproachful, mournful procession into Christless graves.

PORT HOPK.—The Gleaner's Mission Band has just completed a talent enterprise. As the Band was dispersing for the vacation, the sum of \$3.75 was distributed. The smallest amount given to any one was two cents; the largest, was \$2.10. The majority ranged from five to twenty-five cents.

The first meeting of the season was held Saturday, Sept.

8th, and the talents were returned with an increase amounting to \$24.50. The most remarkable gain was that of Miss Margaret Hume, who began with ten cents, and returned \$4.10. The offering of the day was \$1.60 making the total receipts \$26.10.

We were so fortunate as to have Brother Baker with us, and he interested the children with an account of the work in Bolivia, to which he will soon go. P. K. D.

Young People's Department.

FIVE INDIANS AND A JACKKNIFE.

BY EGERTON R. YOUNG.

Indian boys dearly love pocket knives. As they have to make their own bows and arrows, the paddles for their birch canoes, and also the frames for their snow shoes, of course a good knife is a valuable possession. In whittling, Indian boys do not push the knife from them, but always draw it toward them. They are very clever in the manufacture of the few things which they require, and are encouraged by their fathers to do their work as neatly as possible. So the better the knife, the better the work which these Indian lads can do; and they are ambitious to possess the very best knife that is possible for them to obtain, just as the older Indians will give any price within their means for the very best guns that are made. Knowing this love for a good knife, I once used it among a lot of Indian lads as an incentive to encourage them to sing, as our story will explain.

At one of our Indian villages, where a flourishing mission with its day and Sunday schools exists, the devoted lady teacher said to me on a visit: "I do wish you would do something to encourage our boys to sing. They have good voices, but they seem afraid to use them."

The request was made during the celebration of a feast which I was giving them. I had taken out from civilization such things as flour, tea, sugar, currants, and candies; and at 4 a. m. the Indian women had come to the place appointed, and had cooked the cakes, etc., and made all other needed preparations.

At about ten o'clock the people assembled on the bank of the river in front of the church. Everybody came. It was not asked whether they were Christians or pagan.

The girls sang very sweetly, but not much music came from the boys; and so I began at once to act on the request of the teacher.

Knowing, as I have stated, the boys' love for pocket knives, I went to one of my boxes, and, taking out six very good ones, I stood up before the crowd and said: "Boys, listen to me. I am going to give these six knives to the six boys who will sing the best. And look! While five of them are good two-bladed knives, one of them is a splendid four-bladed one! Now, I am going to give this best one to the boy who will sing the best of all."